



# Annual Project Update

## Libby Asbestos Superfund Site

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### New Team = New Approach

A new EPA Libby Site Team has been put in place to manage the transition from removal action to remedial activity that provides an orderly process toward evaluating long-term remedies at each of the Site's Operable Units (OUs).



The new Site Team also will implement a few new community involvement ideas as the 2009 construction season progresses, and will continue its support of local community groups and workshops.

### OUs 1, 2, 5, & 6 – Processing Areas

The Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies (RI/FS) needed to support Proposed Plans and Records of Decision (ROD) will be completed for OU 1 (the former Export Plant) and OU 2 (former Screening Plant) this year. EPA hopes that portions of OU 5, the Stimson Mill campus, can be redeveloped and contribute to the economic vitality of the community as soon as possible. Toward that end, after the sampling results from OU 5 are evaluated, the RI/FS will be completed for a ROD in 2010. Sampling along the rail line, OU 6, has been completed and the data are currently being analyzed.

### OU 3 – The Mine

This year at OU 3, EPA will evaluate the 2008 Remedial Investigation (RI) results, including surface water, sediment and ambient air samples, and plan the 2009 RI effort. The 2009 RI will likely include investigations of fish and small mammals, activity based sampling, and stream flow monitoring. OU 3 encompasses the mine property and areas impacted by releases from the mine including Rainy Creek, the Kootenai River, settling ponds, the surrounding forest, and Rainy Creek Road.

### OU 4 – Libby Homes & Businesses

Over 1100 residential and commercial properties have now been cleaned up in Libby. During this construction season, EPA plans on completing well over 100 larger and more complicated properties in Libby, resulting in the removal of a record volume of contaminated material. Work will begin on the local golf course and two more creek banks will be completed this season. Moving to a design/build construction strategy this year will reduce costs and increase efficiency of the cleanups.

### OU 7 – Troy

The Troy Asbestos Property Evaluation (TAPE) effort should be completed this year by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the lead agency for OU 7. An Ambient Air Sampling Program will also begin this year in Troy and certain highly contaminated properties will be cleaned up.

### Who Ya Gonna Call?

When remodeling or doing yard work, you should contact your Environmental Resource Specialist (ERS) if you encounter vermiculite that may contain Libby Amphibole asbestos. The ERS will provide on-the-spot answers to your questions. It's also a good idea to consult with the ERS before you begin a project on your property.



The ERS position is intended to remain after EPA finishes its work to answer your questions should you encounter vermiculite on your property or in your home in the future. Contact the ERS during regular business hours and emergencies at 406-291-5335.

Return service requested



## 2009 Annual Project Update Inside

### 60-Second Project Summary

2002 to 2009



#### 2002

- Most cleanup of WR Grace facilities, schools, and public areas completed
- EPA announces decision to clean residential properties including vermiculite insulation
- Libby added to Superfund list
- 3000+ properties inspected and sampled during the CSS
- 26 residential cleanups completed

#### 2003

- 1200+ properties inspected or sampled
- EPA publishes interim cleanup standards and protocols
- 157 residential or commercial cleanups completed
- City boat ramp cleanup completed

#### 2004

- 170 residential or commercial cleanups completed
- EPA announces it will include Troy in the cleanup
- Cleanup of BNSF rail yard completed
- Cleanup of Flyway property completed
- New cleanup contract awarded

#### 2005

- 225 residential or commercial cleanups completed
- Special sampling to verify protectiveness of cleanup
- Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study underway
- Begin initial coordination for 2006 Troy investigations

#### 2006

- 216 residential or commercial cleanups completed
- Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study underway
- Outdoor Ambient  
Air sampling program initiated

#### 2007

- 160 large and complicated properties completed
- Outdoor Ambient Air sampling program in progress
- Activity Based Sampling program initiated
- Toxicity Studies identified for Baseline Risk Assessment
- ERS program initiated
- Sampling in Troy initiated

#### 2008

- 143 properties completed in Libby, 6 in Troy
- Activity Based Sampling completed
- Toxicity Studies continue for Baseline Risk Assessment
- Sampling in Troy progresses
- Investigations at all OUs continued
- Work on creeks with contaminated rip-rap begun

#### 2009

- 100 to 150 properties targeted in Libby
- Golf course cleanup scheduled to begin
- Remaining creeks to be completed
- Troy sampling wraps up
- Toxicology studies and Investigations move forward

**Questions?** Please visit or call the EPA Information Center, at 501 Mineral Avenue in Libby (406-293-6194), or call the following EPA staff toll free:

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